Box 114

Creelman's Address.

To the Electors of the Constituency of Truro.

GENTLEMEN:—

As a respectable majority of you have already on two occasions honored me with your support when a Candidate for a seat in the House of Assembly, and having been again solicited by many of high respectability among you, to offer myself for your choice at the approaching Election, and Mr. Hiram Hyde having offered his services to you and claimed your Suffrages in opposition to me, and published a pamphlet full of sound and fury, not only against myself individually, but against the Government of which I am a member, I am tempted to give that person the gentle castigation which he has been earning for himself this some time past. Mr. Hyde, though a servant of the Government, seems to act upon the principle that he is privileged to bully and abuse its members whenever and upon whatever occasion he pleases; and it is quite time that he was convinced of his error, and made to understand his position and the estimation in which he deserves to be held.

Mr. Hyde makes great professions of disinterestedness and patriotism. Let us examine his claims to these amiable qualifications. He is, as I believe, a Yankee, not of the old heroic race, whose high standard of moral excellence, and whose pure and lofty affections won them a fame embalmed in an ever enduring fragrance, and whose atchievements rendered even Yankee Doodle bearable, but of that modern breed which Sam Slick so well describes, who go about the world chaffering and scheming, boasting and bullying—never so puffed up with vanity as when they have taken somebody in, never so indignant as when they meet a man too stupid and self-willed to be cheated.

These men are to be found in all the Southern and Western States driving Stages, trading horses, and willing to do anything for a living but hard work, and about as many of

them as have been profitable have betimes found their way into various parts of this Province, in which may be included the most of the Settlements in the County of Colchester, and those who have purchased Clocks and paid something more than ten times their value, and who have been ruined by costly litigation when they resisted the fraud, will require no further illustration of their habits and propensities.

Mr. Hyde comes of this stock; every movement he makes shows the strong family likeness to scheme, to boast, to bully; and always be riding about at somebody's expense, is the business of his life. He tells us that he was brought into this Province by a very respectable man, but he forgets to mention that the cost of the importation was rather heavy; from 1841 to 1845 Mr. Hyde drew £1937 10s. per annum from the public funds, during the four years that his Contract continued, he pocketed over £7000, a sum quite as large as all the "sapheaded" members of the Government have received since the Liberals came into power.

When this extravagant Contract (entered into without the consent of the Provincial Government) came to a termination,* Mr. Hyde was left in the enjoyment of a very liberal appropriation for conveying the Mails, which has given him a monopoly of the passenger traffic on one of our most productive line of roads ever since. His charge for conveying a passenger hence to Pictou, for a long time, was thirty-five shillings, at present it is 25s.—while a passenger on the western line can be conveyed to Windsor and back, about the same distance, for ten.

It is quite evident then, that Mr. Hiram Hyde has been to this country rath a costly importation. It is likewise equally evident and clear that he has been maintained by the public from the day he honored us with the light of his countenance. How well he has thriven and managed his own business, with all these advantages, may be gathered from the position he occupied about a year ago, when it appeared that some persons got rather suspicious of his integrity and good faith.

Some time ago Mr. Hyde manifested a very disinterested and patriotic desire to make our roads as well as drive over them, not satisfied with the skill and integrity of such men

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*By a clause in the Contract, if the Government saw fit to discontinue it in any time within eight years from the date of it, the sum of £775 sterling, or £968 15s. curr'cy. was to be paid to the Contractor. This sum was paid in 1846. Will Mr. Hyde inform us who received the benefit of that.

as Scott, Shultz, Dowling, Parker, Smith and others, he commenced a crusade in the newspapers which every body interpreted to mean just this :

Here am I, Hiram Hyde a most disinterested, skilful, and patriotic person, who would like to expend all the money on the Eastern Road if the Government and the Legislature who appear quite blind to my eminent qualifications would only let me.—This scheme proved a failure.

Mr. Hyde's next exploit was to erect a Telegraph from Truro to Pictou, in conjunction with a Company whom he induced to subscribe a large portion of the funds. Here again he was a Contractor, and his disinterested labors closed with his pocketing a considerable sum of money, while not one of the Shareholders has received a Sixpence down to the present hour.

Last winter Mr. Hyde came before the House of Assembly with two grand schemes, one of which would secure to him the Carriage of all the Mails on the Main Routes to the East and North of the Capital, and by the other he expected no doubt to get the control and management of all the Telegraph wires in the Province. A modest Yankee this, verily, is he not?

To enable him to carry one of these through Committee, Mr. Hyde engaged to secure the consent of all the Couriers now in the employment of the Government. This he was unable to do ; some of the Couriers protested against such a disregard of their equitable rights in favour of a stranger. The Government were compelled, therefore, to do an act of absolute injustice to these men, to hand over their lines to Mr. Hyde or to put all the lines, his own included, up to competition. They determined to adopt the latter course, and then Mr. Hyde's patriotism and sense of fair play were fairly tested. He came whining to the Government* about the injustice of putting his line up to competition ; altho' he thought it perfectly allowable to seize upon every body else's line without any competition whatever.

Yielding to his importunities, the Government issued an order directing the Postmaster General to renew the Contracts of all the Couriers (including Mr. Hyde's) provided they would carry out the Service in the mode suggested by the Post-office Committee. Subsequently, strong remonstrances came from the people of Pictou against the scheme

* See his Letter 9th May.

itself, unforseen difficulties having presented themselves. The Government were compelled to pause, and accordingly ordered delay:—nothing more, and in the meantime Mr. Hyde flings himself into personal opposition to me and bespatters the Government with abuse. My first duty then, with your aid, will be to beat him soundly on the Hustings —and then to teach him a lesson in Responsible Government of which he appears to be profoundly ignorant—to show him that though he may be at liberty to ride over the roads of Nova-Scotia at the public expense, he cannot with impunity ride over its Government.

Mr. Hyde has for some time past been engaged in getting up Subscriptions to build more Telegraphs. His motive is most patriotic. Others are to supply the funds, but, by a thoroughly Yankee proviso in the Subscription paper, Mr. Hyde constructs the Telegraph at his own price. If the lines pays no dividend, being as remunerative as the Pictou line, what matter? The Contractor will make some hundreds, perhaps some thousands, whoever is out of pocket. "Heads you lose, tails I win." The Liberals in this City have not been green enough to give their money to Mr. Hyde to make ducks and drakes of—not so with the Tories, they have Subscribed largely. How much they will pay up after the Election is over, and Mr. Hyde having made a fool and a tool of himself, remains to be revealed. What the Government may do, also remains unknown—but if they say to Mr. Hyde as Othello said to Cassio, "Never more officer of mine," he will have but himself to blame.

Mr. Hyde, like many of his friends, professes great admiration and regard for Mr. Howe; but where was Mr. Hyde in all the more trying and doubtful periods of Mr. Howe's public life? When the men of Stewiacke and Shubenacadie gathered time and again to cheer and to sustain Howe in the dark days of political persecution and unbelief, when was Hiram Hyde seen in the midst of them? when did his voice mingle in those days with those who shouted success to Howe and Responsible Government? Never. He was riding up and down the Truro road with his £1900 a year in his pocket. When Mr. Howe is entrusted with a mission to England, Mr. Hyde is seen lobbying about the Committee Rooms, tampering with the officers he had left in charge of the Telegraph, or abusing and pouring out his malignity against his colleagues in the Government; and when absent

in Canada the same game is played over in the various settlements of the Southern district of Colchester. What is your opinion of a person who was capable of offering a direct bribe of £500 to the Superintendent of the Telegraph to induce him to hold his tongue and permit Mr. Hyde to seize, in Mr. Howe's absence, on the work which he and his colleagues had added to the public property of the Province? Mr. Hyde's "uprightness" did not prevent him from doing this. Let him deny it if he dare, and the most ample evidence shall be forthcoming in proof of the fact.

There is a Law of England of which Mr. Hyde appears to be profoundly ignorant. It is that by which all Government contractors are excluded from Parliament.* Should you be simple enough to elect Mr. Hyde, (but of this there is little danger,) he might find that a constitutional majority would compel him to choose between his contract and his seat.

A few words relative to some of the remarkable passages in Mr. Hyde's "address." In page 3, it is written, "Be it known to all, I have no *claims* whatever, except the respect of all men, and this I intend to command by bold, energetic, and upright conduct. I do not *rest* the result on either the perfections or imperfections of Mr. Creelman or any one else, but solely on my own merits, rough and unlettered as they may be, conscious of honesty of intention—unshackled and independent I stand or fall."

Surely this is modesty, if not the very essence of humility and the spirit of lowliness. Plain language this, not difficult of interpretation; as much as to say, I Hiram Hyde, who have heretofore been like unto other men of Adam's race, having my faults and failings, not being universally respected and beloved, shall remain in this state of mediocrity no longer, henceforth I am to become a great and mighty Exception among the sons of men. My conduct hereafter shall command for me universal respect, I *intend* it. The result of my election, I do not rest upon any thing good or bad in or about any one else. My own intrinsic merits are my hope. The principles and pledges of my opponent are nothing, I do not intend to make a slave of myself to your whims and opinions. I shall make no pledges—I must remain "unshackled and free." No matter gentlemen, what opi-

* By the 22nd of George III. ch. 45, no person who shall hold or enjoy any Contract entered into for the public service, shall be capable of being elected, or of sitting or voting as a member of the House of Commons.

nions *you* may form, or what conclusions you may arrive at respecting my fitness to serve you as your representative, I will keep constantly before my own eyes my own "merits" "stand or fall."

Verily the "good time" is at hand, "we will surely live to see it." More than a modern Job has announced himself as about to appear amongst us, and the wicked men of this world, who have heretofore hated the good and persecuted the just, are from this time forth, universally to yield the homage due to this hitherto UNKNOWN and "upright" man.

Let us enquire how Mr. Hyde has carried out his "honesty of intention." After the announcement of this copious effusion of modesty he pens but a few paragraphs until he writes, "The offer made by me to do this work for the same sum that is now paid for a very inefficient mode of doing it, was accepted by an unanimous resolution of the House of Assembly, the work to commence on the 6th July, 1851." In reply to this, I deny that any such resolution ever passed the House. Let Mr. Hyde prove his assertion. I will state the facts. The Post Office Committee in their report say, "that after deliberate consideration they have adopted scheme." (for the transmission of the mails,) "copies of which are also annexed, marked A, B and C. This arrangement the Committee have reason to think will be very acceptable to the community, and recommend the adoption of them." And again, "the Committee recommend that all contracts hereafter to be made for the transmission of Mail conveyance or Post Office Printing, should in future be open to competition, and entered into by the Post Master General for a term of years, say five years for the first contracts, and four years subsequently with proper guards for their faithful fulfilment. See Jour. app. No. 55.

On the Report of the Post Office Committee being read, it was ordered that the Report be *received*, and such parts of it as recommend money votes, be referred to Committee of Supply. Jour. p. 722. Report adopted, p. 796.

The scheme marked B, is Mr. Hyde's—to which is prefixed his explanations respecting it, and then he adds:—"I will contract to carry all the Mails this side of the Gut, viz. between Halifax and Pictou, Gut and Guysborough, for the sum now paid for the service, viz. One Thousand and Twelve Pounds per annum, and to continue for a period of five years." Here the action of the House ceased,

and yet Mr. Hyde tells you that, on the strength of what passed in the House, he ordered covered Coaches, costing nearly six hundred pounds, covered waggons, &c. for the fulfilment of the contract. Do you believe that Mr. Hyde is such a ninny-hammer as not to know that it requires the consent of two parties to form a contract? I don't, but then he *was*, or he has stated what is not true. It is clear, then, that the House did not intend to bind the Government to contract with Mr. Hyde, as the Committee only recommended schemes, not the *acceptance of any offer*. And it is equally clear that had the Government acted upon the recommendation of the Committee, Mr. Hyde's line would at this day be up for competition. But instead of that, by the Government yielding to his importunity, he is in the quiet possession of it, and he, like the petted child, is scowling at its nurse for her kindness. Let us see in what way he is wronged He is now receiving the same sum for the same service that he has been in receipt of for the past six years, and he could at any time terminate the contract by giving three months notice. If it would pay no better to convey the mails to Pictou according to his own scheme than it does at present, then he is no loser. If it would, then it can be done for less money, and why should it not be competed for? Then, until Mr. Hyde is actually dismissed, why should he squeak and squall so. If the Government had given Mr. Hyde a monopoly of all the mail lines hence to Amherst and the Gut for five years, and placed at his mercy all the other Couriers on these routes, you would have heard no complaints from him. He professes to be a Liberal, but it is to be feared that the contiguity of Toryism, and the infectious air of monopoly have had an injurious effect upon him ; he has the disease, taken the natural way or by innoculation ; the *virus* is in him, and there is every symptom of the malady in its most virulent form. He is transformed, if he does not differ from a Liberal in *species* he does in *genus*.

Mr. Hyde tells you that two schemes were submitted to him by Mr. Woodgate, one of them, which he describes as drawn up by me, and says that it was only his own " ridiculously mutilated." I deny that such a scheme was ever submitted to him by Mr. Woodgate as *my* scheme ; but he forgot to tell you that both the schemes submitted to him by Mr. Woodgate, differed from his own in one very essential point, and that was *they* avoided all driving the mails on the Sabbath, and *his* did not.

And now, Gentlemen, I must apologise for this lengthy notice of Mr. Hyde and his address to you. If he had been content with his proper position among you, and satisfied by getting fair play himself, and allowing others the same privilege, it would have saved him this infliction and you this intrusion. I hope you will receive it as it is intended, I know you are possessed of highly honorable feelings, and would not hesitate for a moment to withdraw your support, not only from your humble servant, but from any Government that would wantonly attempt to crush any individual, however humble his position might be; and therefore I deemed it but respectful in me when Mr. Hyde came before you with such wilful misrepresentations as his "address" contains to place not only the matter but the man before you in a true light, and having done so, I am not afraid to await your decision.

Of myself I shall say but little; a self taught Colchester Yeoman, born among you, I know what it is to grow wheat where the birch, the beech, and the maple flourished the year previous. I have taught your children one day, and ploughed the soil the next; living happily in a beloved neighbourhood, soliciting no higher honors. You, in conjunction with other parts of the County, elevated me to the the Assembly, where I have endeavoured to represent you faithfully. The office to which I have been advanced I accepted from no love of lucre, but to strengthen the Government in Howe's absence, upon a question of importance to you all, when Hiram Hyde was doing his best to destroy it. That you will at this critical moment, when Mr. Howe and his friends are trying to bring the junction of the Stewiacke and the Shubenacadie within an hour's ride of Halifax, by Rail, cast one of us aside to make way for this schemer whose character you are no longer ignorant of, I have not a moments apprehension; but if the Rail Road should go on, the mails and the passengers will go in it, the Stage Coach will be obsolete, and hence Mr. Hiram Hyde's virtuous and patriotic indignation.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen, your most obedient and

Much Obliged Servant,

SAML. CREELMAN.

HALIFAX, August 1st, 1851.